

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1 FIG. 1 is a schematic illustrating a hardware environment in one embodiment of the present invention, and more particularly, illustrates a ~~typical distributed database system~~ a distributed or de-centralized database system;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 121 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2 Referring back to FIG. 2A, and continuing with block 210, mapping tables are configured during the initial installation process. Mapping tables are based on the source tables. Mapping tables describe the source data tables and their relationships. Once the relations and field properties of source tables are described, the inverted index tables may be populated. Continuing with the example source tables in FIGS. 3-6, the mapping tables describe the relationships of data within these source tables. In one embodiment of the present invention, and based on the example source tables previously described, mapping tables are embodied in different categories of tables: Collections, Tables, Fields, FieldGroups, and Joins. These mapping tables are illustrated in FIGS. 7-11, and each mapping table will be described in further detail with reference to the previously described source tables.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3 As previously explained, intermediate mapping tables are configured by, for example, a system administrator. Mapping tables define the relations and field properties of the source tables ~~are described~~. Continuing with the previous example, the field with FieldName 805 "DateOfBirth" is associated with the table identified with TableID = 6. Referring back to ITables 710, TableID = 6 corresponds to the table "Artists." Additionally, for each field, users may indicate order, search, and display criteria with corresponding Display Order 807, DataFieldSearchable 808, KeywordSearchable 809, and DisplayedInData 810 fields. For example, in this particular arrangement, the listed fields would be displayed in sequential order (1, 2,... 10). However, other display orders may be implemented. With regard to the other search and display criteria, whether these options are enabled is indicated by "0" and "1" values.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4 Referring back to FIG. 2A 2, continuing with block 220, the data processing system 112 generates inverted tables from the source table content based on the previously described mapping tables. The mapping tables serve as "control relations" that guide the conversion of data in the source tables to the inverted tables. Thus, the inverted table structures contain the atomized information of values, terms, and numeric content of the source tables. In the present invention, the mapping tables and the inverted table structures are the same for *any* relational database resource or set of source tables.